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Dr Adrian D. Lewis, 36 Lilymead Avenue, Knowle, Bristol B54 2BX, England

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The Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica* in South-West Ethiopia

The Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica* is an endemic sedentary species ranging from Senegal east to Burundi, Rwanda (one record), north-eastern Tanzania, Uganda and southern Sudan (Fry, Keith & Urban 1988) inhabiting areas near water up to 1800 m. The species has not been recorded previously in Ethiopia (Urban & Brown 1971).

At least two Blue-breasted Kingfishers have been observed repeatedly between January and May 1989 in the Legedema River (1400 m altitude), a tributary of the Didessa River in Welega, Ethiopia. The Legedema was hardly flowing at the time and the main items in the bird's diet were probably tadpoles, very abundant in the stream's small pools.

The Blue Nile's tributaries, such as the Dedessa, have carved deep river valleys which dissect the South-Western highlands joining the western lowlands towards the Sudan (Westphal 1975). The habitat similarities between these river valleys and the lowlands were stressed by Urban & Brown (1971) by grouping them under the same geographical area, "Western Ethiopia".

Although the Blue-breasted Kingfisher has so far been sighted only in this area of Ethiopia, it may also inhabit the Didessa River itself and probably other similar rivers found in the region, expanding its previously reported range.

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*Julio J. de Castro and Mabel de Castro, GCP/ZAM/044/DEN c/o FAO Office,
Box 30563, Lusaka, Zambia*

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